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May 9, 2005



VIA U.P.S. OVERNIGHT

Mr. Vernon Williams, Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings

MAY 10 2005

Part of
Public Record

**RE: Docket AB-33 (Sub-No. 143X), Union Pacific Railroad Company
- Abandonment Exemption - In Wright, Franklin and Cerro
Gordo Counties, IA (Thornton Industrial Lead Between Thornton,
IA and Belmond, IA--Formerly Known as the Fort Dodge Branch)**

Dear Mr. Williams:

The Union Pacific Railroad Company has received another request from the Iowa Trails Council for an additional 180 day extension in which to complete negotiations for the acquisition of that portion of the Union Pacific's right-of-way between Thornton and Belmond in Franklin, Wright and Cerro Gordo Counties from M.P. 17.14 near Thornton to M.P. 29.52 near Belmond, for trail use. The Union Pacific is willing to continue to negotiate with the Iowa Trails Council concerning the acquisition of the subject property for trail use for the requested 180 days. A copy of the Iowa Trails Council's request is attached hereto as Exhibit "A" and hereby made a part hereof.

Ten (10) additional copies of this letter and exhibit are enclosed for the Board's use and distribution.

Very truly yours,

Enclosures

Cc: Iowa Trails Council

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Mack H. Shumate, Jr.
Senior General Attorney, Law Department

UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD
101 N. Wacker Dr., Rm. 1920, Chicago, IL 60606-1718
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P O Box 131 Center Point, IA., 52213-0131 319-849-1844
Tom F. Neenana, Executive Director

May 6, 2005

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Mr. Vernon Williams
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street NW
Washington, D. C., 20423-0001

Dear Secretary Williams:

With reference to AB 33 (Sub No. 143 X) we are in need of another extension of time in which to complete our negotiations for the acquisition of this railroad right-of-way for conversion to a trail. Would you please grant us another six months in which to carry on these negotiations?

We have made an offer to the Union Pacific Railroad some time ago but have, as yet, have not received a reply. We are hoping that we can finalize acquisition within another 180 days.

We are forwarding a copy of this request to the Union Pacific offices in Chicago and Omaha and are mailing ten copies to your office, in addition to this faxed copy.

Thank you for your kind consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Tom F. Neenan

Affiliates: American Discovery Trail Society-American Hiking Society-Rails/Trails Conservancy